



TAEP Producer Diversification Program

Organics Criteria

For Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013

Program Criteria:

- This information is current as of **March 31, 2012** and is a supplement to the TAEP 2012 Application and Guidelines.
- **Producers** are eligible for the following cost share percentages for qualified expenses:
 - **Standard Producer** - 35% cost share up to a maximum of \$10,000.
 - **Master Producer** - 50% cost share up to a maximum of \$15,000 for producers meeting special requirements.
- The proposed activity must encompass **quality expansion** or **improvement** of the applicant's business. Eligible categories include:
 - Farm Infrastructure
 - Specialty Equipment
 - Marketing

Competitive Projects – Organics:

Priority is given to projects that are focused on improving or increasing production. Marketing projects are also strongly considered depending on the individual producer's market.

Priority Cost Share – Special Requirements for 50% Cost Share:

Who is eligible?

The applicant must be USDA certified organic or working towards certification to qualify. Certification must be current at the time of the reimbursement request.

Examples of Eligible Items:

Fan – <i>greenhouse</i>	- <i>foundation</i>	- <i>shade system</i>
Fertilizer equipment	- <i>propagation area</i>	Heater – <i>greenhouse</i>
Field planter	<u>Greenhouse-</u>	High tunnel/hoop house
Filter system - <i>irrigation</i>	- <i>structure</i>	<u>Irrigation -</u>
Flail mower	- <i>hydroponic</i>	- <i>controller system</i>
<u>Gravel-</u>	- <i>overwintering</i>	- <i>drip</i>

- *filter system*
- *overhead*
- *pivot*
- *pump*
- *water level control*
- *water storage tanks*
- Lighting -
- *greenhouse*
- *not for aesthetics*
- Loading area/dock
- Mulch machine
- Mulch layer/lifter
- Packing building

- Packing line equipment
- Pond liner- *irrigation system*
- Production line equipment
- Pump – *irrigation, filter*
- Roller crimper
- Row covers
- Signs
- Sink – *produce washing*
- Soil mixer
- Spader
- Spray equipment

- Sprayer
- Thermostat – *greenhouse*
- Trellis materials
- Fruit stock
- *apples*
- *blackberries*
- *blueberries*
- *peaches*
- *grapes*
- *raspberries*
- Walk-in cooler
- Website development
- Wood boiler

Examples of Ineligible Items:

- Advertising
- Brochures
- Building – *storage*
- Chemicals
- Computers
- Containers - *bottles, pots*
- Drip tape
- Driveways
- Electrical service
- Fees
- *domain*
- *hosting*
- *membership*
- Fencing
- Fertilizer
- Forklift
- Fuel
- Give-a-way items

- Golf Cart
- Insecticides
- Labor – *applicant or employees of applicant*
- Landscaping
- Land – *clearing of*
- Livestock
- Maintenance of existing structures
- Meeting expenses
- Merchandise
- Motorized vehicles
- Mower
- Office equipment
- Permits
- Pesticides
- Plants – *liners/plugs*
- Ponds – *digging of for a water source*

- Product development
- Property – *purchase or debt payment*
- Renovations of existing structures
- Seeds – *produce, nursery, flowers, etc.*
- Software
- Store - *general*
- Tractor
- Trade show expenses
- Trailers – *livestock*
- Used equipment
- Water source creation – *ponds/wells*
- Website – *annual or hosting fees*
- Wells – *drilling of*

Contact:

- For more information regarding the TAEP Producer Diversification Program, TDA Market Development, and Organics – contact **Jon Frady** at 615-837-5344, Producer.Diversification@tn.gov, or Jon.Frady@tn.gov
- Check for updates at www.tn.gov/taep or 1-800-342-8206